



# Media Release

### New headspace centre for Mandurah

26 May 2017

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) welcomes the Commonwealth Government's announcement to establish a new headspace in Mandurah.

WAPHA General Manager Bernadette Kenny joined Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt and Canning MP Andrew Hastie at the announcement.

Research by ConNetica and the Brain and Mind Centre at the University of Sydney reveals that suicide rates are 1.7 times the road toll in the Canning electorate and rank as one of the highest in the nation.

Ms Kenny said that the new headspace centre will have a focus on early intervention.

"The goal is to make it as easy as possible for a young person experiencing mental illness and related substance use problems, and their family, to access the help they need for problems affecting their wellbeing," she said.

"We recognise the significant unmet need for youth and family-friendly mental health services in Mandurah.

"This investment will help strengthen and compliment other state and federally funded services in the region."

The Mandurah headspace joins the 11 current headspaces currently operating in WA.

WAPHA currently administers the funding of the existing headspace centres in WA.

Mandurah headspace will now begin a planning phase with services expected to commence within 12 months.

### ENDS

#### **About WAPHA**

WAPHA oversees the strategic commissioning functions of the Perth North, Perth South and Country WA Primary Health Networks (PHNs). The WA PHNs are three of 31 PHNs established by the Australian Government nationally to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for the community. We work across the WA healthcare system with doctors, allied health

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professionals, Area Health Services and service providers to improve the coordination of care for people who are at risk of poor health outcomes. Visit www.wapha.org.au for more information.

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